

WITHIN SIGHT OF ENGLAND.

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3f Napoleon's suite, Colonel Planat, was much, affected, and even wept, on witnessing the humiliation of his Master.

On the return of Bonaparte from the *Superb* to the *Bellerophon* the latter ship was got under weigh and made sail for England. When passing within a cable's length of the *Superb* Napoleon inquired of Captain Maitland if he thought that distance was sufficient for action. The reply of the English officer was characteristic; he told the Emperor that half the distance, or even less, would suit much better. Speaking of Sir Sidney Smith, Bonaparte repeated the anecdote connected with his quarrel at St. Jean d'Acre with that officer, which has already been related in one of the notes earlier in these volumes. Patting Captain Maitland on the shoulder, he observed, that had it not been for the English navy he would have been Emperor of the East, but that wherever he went he was sure to find English ships in the way.

The *Bellerophon*, with Bonaparte on board, sighted the coast of England on Sunday, the 23d of July, 1815, and at daybreak on the 24th the vessel approached Dartmouth. No sooner had the ship anchored than an order from Lord Keith was delivered to Captain Maitland, from which the following is an extract: —

*Extract of an order from Admiral Viscount Keith, G. C. 13., addressed to Captain Maitland, of H. M. 8. "Bellerophon," dated Ville de Paris, Hamoaze, 23d July, 1815.*

Captain Sartorius, of His Majesty's ship *Slaney*, delivered to me last night, at eleven o'clock, your despatch of the 14th instant, acquainting me that Bonaparte had proposed to embark on board the ship you command, and that you had acceded thereto, with the intention of proceeding to Torbay, there to wait for further orders. I lost no time in forwarding your letter by Captain Sartorius to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in order that their Lordships might, through him, be acquainted with every circumstance that had occurred on an occasion of so much importance; and you may expect orders from their Lordships for your further guidance. You are to remain in Torbay until you receive such orders; and in the mean time, in addition to the directions already in your possession, you are most positively ordered to prevent every person whatever from coming on board the ship you command, except the officers and men who compose her crew; nor is any person whatever, whether in His Majesty's service or not, who does not belong to the ship, to be